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"Before Dinner"

Photograph By Leonard Earl Johnson

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MARY SMITH



Changes—Slowly Happening For Us

by Mary Smith

The seasons change on schedule every year. Some things are predictable. Some things change so slowly we don't notice something has occurred until we look again. The opening of a flower, the transformation of the leaves, or the changing of minds.

The Fall of 1990 had some memorable events. Elections can be fairly predictable, as far as the event itself. The passing of the Domestic Partners measure in San Francisco; however, blossomed like a flower. We kept watching and waiting and, suddenly, it was there! Beautiful!

I saw our rainbow flag flying atop our State Capitol in Sacramento on National Coming Out Day. My heart and mind were filled with excitement and pride, feeling that we were finally recognized and included among the citizens of California. Like the leaves of the trees, one morning they turned and were so beautiful; awe inspiring. The Governor (being your basic bah humbug type) ordered the flag taken down three hours later. Our colors came falling down, but I'll never forget the sight of it. It's with me always. And the season will return...

I took my first trip to New York this fall. The trees weren't changing yet. New York was still warm and green and I fell in love with it. I visited Greenwich Village and walked along Christopher Street. My lover, Joanna, and I took our pictures in front of what used to be the Stonewall (now The New Jimmy's). There is a plaque on the building commemorating the Stonewall riots of 1969—the event which gave birth to the Gay and Lesbian Movement. Our own history. There we were and it felt absolutely fabulous to be a part of something bigger than ourselves and yet part of us too.

We stopped in a little shop and I bought some earrings for Joanna. She wanted to try them on and asked the proprietor if it would be okay; were there any laws against it? "Hey, my whole life is against the law,"

the man replied. "Go right ahead." We talked about the sodomy laws in New York verses California. I guess I take my "rights" for granted sometimes. And here, right where it all started, it is still illegal.

Still, there were rainbow flags in windows and shops and, law or no law, there was an atmosphere of openness and pride, not fear. Even the strange (probably schizophrenic) man standing on the corner yelling about faggots drew little attention. He was an annoyance rather than a person to fear.

Maybe we were lucky. We were looking at everything from the happy tourist point of view. We didn't look in the cracks or behind the doors. We'll save that for another time.

Joanna and I walked hand-in-hand all over New

PATLAR

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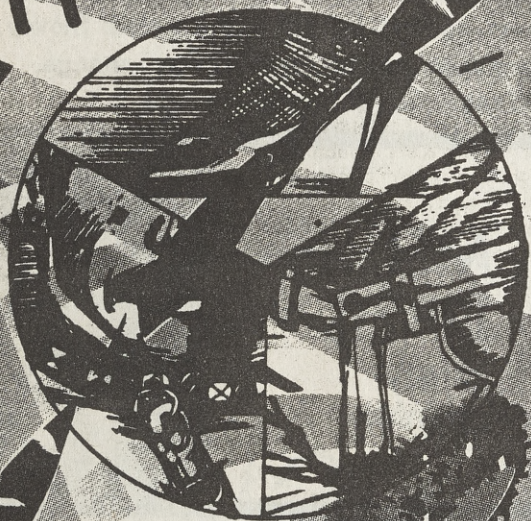
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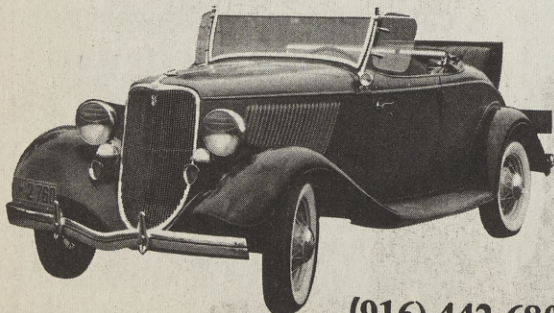
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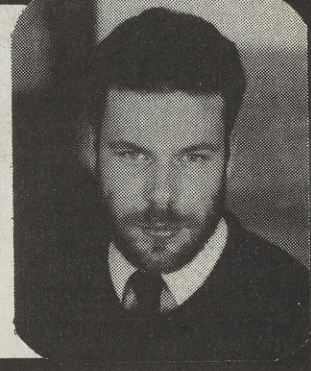
York, even around and through the Statue of Liberty. Maybe especially there. Symbolism is mighty powerful stuff. Liberty and freedom—we're not the only ones still fighting for those things, but to be visible while we're doing it is an incredibly freeing experience.

I like where we are today. Sure, we have a hell of a long way to go, but it's good to stop and take a look at how far we've come now and then. It makes buckling down and pushing even harder next year a little easier; a little more hopeful.

I hope we can all use our moments of silence as they are offered to us during the holidays to reflect on the progress we've made this year. Visualize the rainbow flag on the Capitol and believe it will fly again. Imagine walking hand-in-hand with your lover down any street, even in your own hometown. Maybe next year you will. Trust that our movement in the larger society is with us, not against us. We will succeed. Slowly, almost imperceptibly at times, things will change.

That's what things always do.

**MEL
DAHL**
In My
Opinion



The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things. Of constitutional law, and original intent, and the First Amendment, and whether the Bush administration has wings. When a new Supreme Court justice is confirmed, a young man's thoughts turn to—well, they turn. And whatever it is they turn to, the confirmation of Justice Souter had absolutely nothing to do with the original intent versus judicial activism. To start with, if we ever actually got original intent from the Supreme Court, the conservatives wouldn't want it. Under strict original intent, laws against drugs would be unconstitutional. Laws against pornography would be unconstitutional. Sodomy statutes would be unconstitutional. Sounds wonderful to me; how soon can we start?

The Constitution was written by a group of men who generally disliked government and intended to restrict it to the greatest extent possible. Conspicuously absent from the list of powers permitted to government is any attempt to regulate morality or interfere in the

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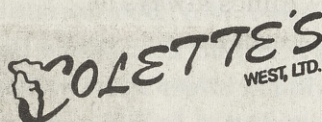
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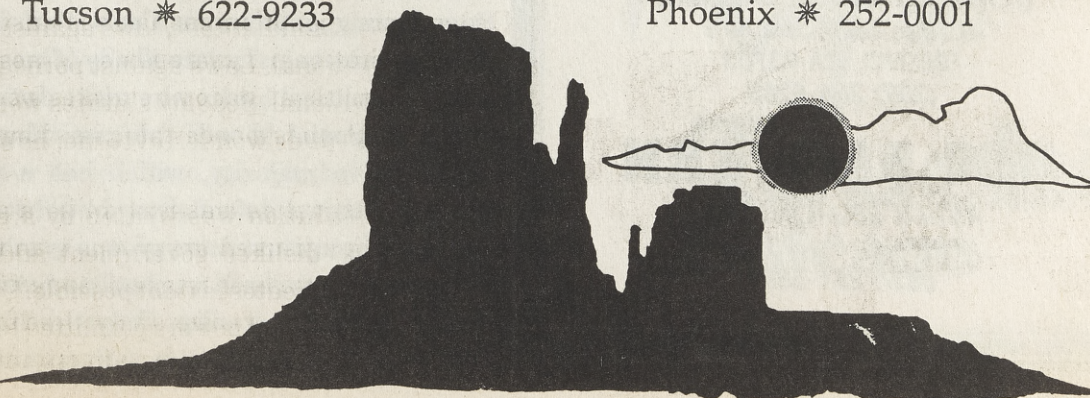
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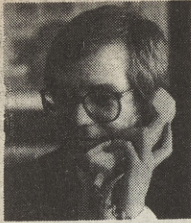
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lives of people who are basically minding their own business but have non-traditional views of life. The Constitution pretty much restricts government to halting aggression and facilitating the free flow of commerce.

Now, I know, some would argue that the original intent of the Constitution was to restrict the federal government, leaving the states free to regulate pretty much whatever they liked. However, under the original intent of the 14th Amendment, most, if not all, of the restrictions placed on the federal government by the original Bill of Rights now apply to the states as well. In any event, there is no question about the unconstitutionality, under an original intent theory, of federal attempts to interfere in the lives of individuals, which are the source of the lion's share of the worst interference in individual rights

And now a word to the liberals: if ever true judicial activism became the order of the day, you wouldn't care much for that either. Why? Because most of the economic regulation so near and dear to the hearts of liberals goes out the window under an activist approach. Under the First Amendment (which, unlike the Supreme Court, draws no distinction between private speech and commercial speech), it is pretty clearly unconstitutional to require cigarette manufacturers to remind their customers that the surgeon general does not approve of smoking, since the freedom to speak obvious includes the freedom to refrain from speaking. OSHA inspectors are a pretty blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment's ban on warrantless searches without probable cause (and again, the Fourth Amendment, unlike the Supreme Court, draws no distinction between commercial property and residential property).

This whole cat fight over original intent versus judicial activism illuminates two very important points about (1) the nature of government and (2) the nature of human nature.

The first point is that our system is such that virtually every politician belongs to someone else. Rather than having a Supreme Court that in a scholarly fashion seeks to articulate a body of law, what we have are nine political hacks who make decisions based on whom they wish to win the case. Thus, the current conservative majority, which has a predisposition against criminal defendants, minorities and civil liberties, rules against those groups even where the only way to do so is to reach conclusions even a four year old would recognize as silly. Only the liberal Supreme Court, which tended to side with criminal defendants,

minorities and civil libertarians did the same thing, using the same method.

The second point this brings us to is that as humans, nobody is perfect, and all of us have blind spots about at least some of our imperfections. I do not believe for a minute that the Supreme Court (or most other people) deliberately sit down to be dishonest. I think that our personal dishonesties, blind spots, and petty hypocrisies, all of which come with the territory of being human, are genuinely unseen by their holders; that's why they are called blind spots. Yet, while that is an explanation, where the subject is as important as the Constitution it is woefully inadequate as an acceptable excuse.

Indeed, this points out the glaring contradiction held by both modern liberalism and modern conservatism: As a generalization, liberals advocate strong controls over the economy but believe that civil liberties are strictly off limits to the government. Conservatives, on the other hand, believe in little or no economic regulation but in a heavy government hand over people's speech, sex lives and chemical ingestions. Neither one sees the contradiction inherent in a philosophically bankrupt set of premises that, purely on a personal whim, feels free to arbitrarily select certain spheres for the heavy hand of government while demanding laissez-faire in areas near and dear to itself.

In a word, both sides choose regulation—for others. For liberals, it is the businessman who ought to be regulated to the point of exhaustion; for conservatives, it is those with non-traditional personal values. Both say: regulate the other fellow and leave me alone.

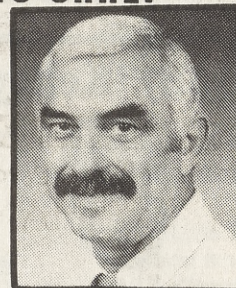
Chief Justice Burger, in one of his few rare opinions that made sense (even though the result was wrong) said, in a decision upholding obscenity laws, that it is hypocritical for liberals, who never have a kind word to say about the free market in any other context, to demand a free market approach to what people choose to read. The Chief's point was unanswerable. But the same thing is true in reverse: it is equally as hypocritical for the conservatives, who demand no regulation at all in commerce, to suddenly discover the joys of regulation where sex is concerned.

The real questions are: Does the state have the right to run our lives? Does my life belong to the Congress or to me? Do I really have the right to pursue life, liberty and my own happiness, or am I merely a sacrificial lamb to be offered on the altar of collectivistic power grabs, which specific grabs depending solely on which group is in power at the moment? When the

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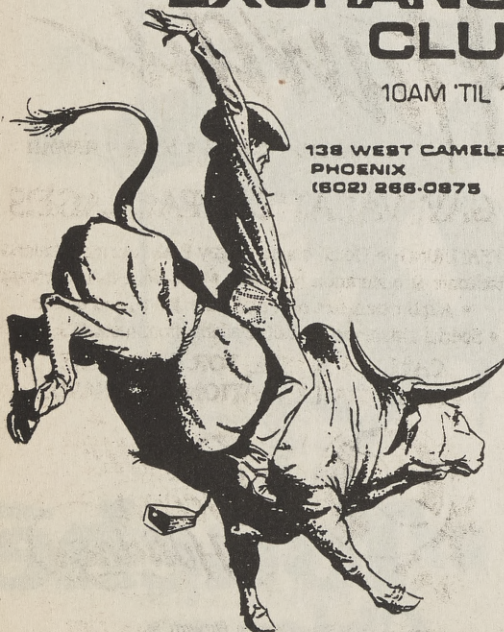
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Supreme Court faces up to those questions, rather than ignoring them, we will be a lot closer to resolving unsettled issues of constitutional law.

Women and Anger

by Kay Mehl Miller

Yeah, I know. Men have problems with anger, too, but this month I'm talking about women and anger and if you men find yourself in this column as well, then it means that you have suffered some the same discrimination women suffer, or if some of your women identify more closely with the male experience of anger, that means you know what it is to be aggressively angry.

So right away, there is controversy. Anger is like that. Anger is an emotion that both consumes and generates great energy. Stereotypically, men are seen as anger-excessive and women as anger-deficient, so that men are associated with asserting power through anger and women are seen as powerless.

In women, expressed anger is often seen as pathological. An angry woman is generally viewed as a bitch, strident and hysterical at times, out of control, and in need of anger management, psychotherapy, or tranquilizers. Just as often she is actually a nice lady who continually swallows back anger and accommodates everyone else's wants and needs until there is little left of her. Sometimes down the road she may become either a severely depressed or a physically ill woman, both psyche and body consumed by unexpressed anger. That woman, too, often ends up in a doctor's office.

Women are taught as little girls not to express anger. "Shh, dear, don't raise your voice. It's not lady-like." or "Don't talk back. That's very unbecoming in a little girl," or, less gentle, "See here, young lady, I'll do the shouting in this house." The only angry woman our society generally validates is the one who rises up with righteous indignation to protect her child, and then only in situations viewed as in line with the so-called established values of society.

Indeed expressing anger is not always the ideal solution, for women often use ineffective ways of expressing anger and feel full of self-doubt and guilt afterwards which reinforces a feeling that they have no right to their own anger.

How do we get out this bind? It is a long, long road to being confidently and competently angry. Assertiveness training courses, while helpful, are not the whole answer. The road to confident and competent expression of anger is through affirmation of the self

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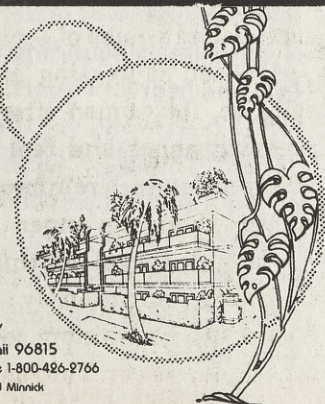
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and for most women, m long caught up in self-sacrificing roles, affirming an autonomous self is a scary process. What if I gain myself and lose my relationships?

Well, what if your yourself and live a life with no identity of your own?

Can I have both, my own sense of self and healthy relationships? Sure, but first find the self that is you. Anger, I submit, is an emotion that continually prods us to be ourselves. If we listen to our anger and figure out what it is telling us and then act from the strength of that knowledge, we are on our way to being confident and competent people who are heard when we clearly say what we mean and who are respected for saying it.

Kay is a credentialed counselor in private practice and a candidate for a Ph.D. in psychology from Saybrook Institute.

Identifying the Inebriate

by Cat Comiskey

One of my friends is a problem drinker. She's been drinking daily for about fifteen years. Her name is now synonymous with the word rum, and I'm sure that her liver looks more like an aborted fetus than it does a large organ.

Last weekend I confronted her about her drinking. This is not the first time that I've tried to talk to her about her problem. It seems, however; whenever I bring up the subject she masterfully manages to turn the conversation around to less threatening topics, such as gardening or sunbathing. So this time, instead of taking the sympathy-laden approach, I would be much more direct for a more assured response. Immediately following dinner, I took my friend by the lapels and said "Sharon, you're an alcoholic and you seriously need to stop drinking." She flared back quickly, "I am not an alcoholic, I'm a social drinker." "Fine," I said, "then you seriously need to stop socializing." Sharon took one last swill of her after dinner drink, mumbled several sharp-sounding words, and stormed out of my tiny one bedroom apartment. I'm probably glad that I didn't hear whatever it was she was trying to say.

After having Sharon around for so many years, I'm now quite familiar with the behaviors of a practicing alcoholic. Consequently, the following list has been generated in hopes that some of you may identify with some of these behaviors, and hence reckon to your own alcoholism.

You know you're an alcoholic when...

Horner's Corner

By Lee Horner

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a weekend seminar in Long Beach celebrating the free enterprise system put on by a group of self-made millionaires that I have business dealings with. A lot of interesting points were made, one of which I'd like to pass on.

As most of my readers are aware bankruptcy is a substantial part of my law practice. I counsel clients on financial matters at no charge with a view of avoiding bankruptcy if at all possible. It's amazing how many times it cannot be avoided at any cost.

At the weekend seminar it came out that in 1951 the U.S. government first authorized the use of credit cards by the general public—all without fanfare and hoopla.

Do you suppose any of the draftsmen of that law had any idea whatsoever what this would do to the country?

We have evolved into a "spend now, pay-for-later" society and I believe it is to our collective detriment.

Granted, the sale of goods and services stimulates the economy, factory workers are kept busy, shippers, jobbers, wholesalers, retailers, etc. are all working and it's better than everyone being out of work. Great, but what happens when the end of the road is reached? When there is no further credit available but an ongoing obligation to repay the huge debt we as consumers have taken upon ourselves?

Faced with rising debt load, consumers find themselves having to spend more and more time away from family and friends in running the rat race of getting enough money together to "service" this consumer debt.

Seems more like trying to run up a gravel hill with someone throwing more gravel in front of you will each step.

And this isn't an infrequent occurrence, either. It absolutely mystifies me how these large New York banks can, for example, give some of my younger clientele (i.e. 22 to 25) a \$5,000 Visa at 21% annual interest and expect to get repaid at all, let alone in a timely manner. The interest on a \$5,000 credit card bill is \$87.50 per month. With a \$125 "minimum" monthly payment, just how fast do you think that \$5,000 will be reduced?

Now I can bankrupt out such a debt in a Chapter 7 case or help my client pay it back, on a zero interest basis, through a Chapter 13 bankruptcy, but without these remedies it is nearly impossible to pay in full in the normal course of events.

Patlar, January 1991, Page Eleven

- Every lamp shade in your house has been worn
- You feel more like a pickle than a homo sapien
- You're always out of ice
- You have permanent projectile vomiting stains on your bathroom walls
- You know that drinking five or more drinks in one sitting is considered alcoholic behavior, so you bar hop
- Everywhere within a two mile radius of your home smells like liquor
- You could have sworn that you parked your car somewhere else
- You identify with Andy Capp
- Your friends never call you in the morning
- For some strange reason they're building an alcohol treatment center just down the road
- You know every bartender in town on a personal level
- You grew up idolizing Harvey Wallbanger and Tom Collins

Cat Comiskey

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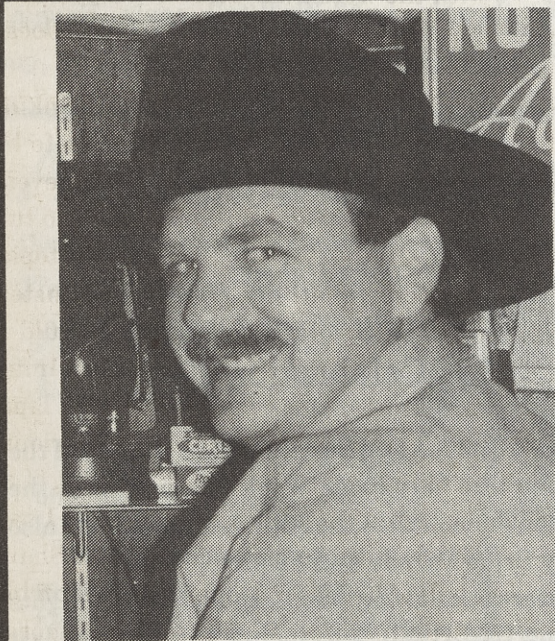


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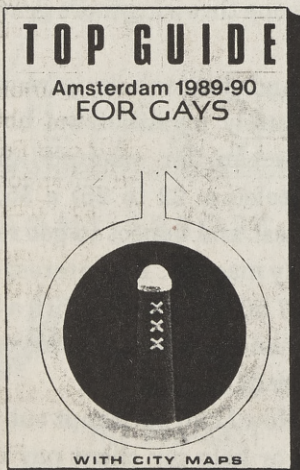
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Certainly there are many reasons for financial difficulty we all experience from time to time. Unforeseen job changes, reduction of income, medical bills—many reasons contribute to an inability to repay debt and these are certainly understandable.

I suggest to all my clients after a bankruptcy that they get on a "cash only" basis (except for major purchases like a house or car). I've done this myself for some years and I can tell you that your mental attitude changes as regards buying something in a store if you don't have the cash to do so on the spot. You either use the lay-away plan (at no cost) or just save up the bucks.

Why would I advocate such a manner of handling finances when my primary source of income is bankruptcy filings? If everyone was on a cash basis, I'd be out of work... what kind of sense does that make?

One thing about being a lawyer is you'll never be out of work. Who knows, I might have to get an honest job for a change.

But just like the dentist that advocates proper dental hygiene who makes money off those who don't heed his advice, we both would prefer to see our respective clients in good health and not in need of our services, but we're there for those that do need help.

Food for thought, huh? We'll talk again. Have a super month.

Lesbian & Gay Happenings Worldwide

By John Hubert

Russia's First Gay Pride Celebration Set

Moscow's famous Red Square will be the site of the first Lesbian and Gay Pride Week celebration in the Soviet Union June 20th to the 30th. Leningrad will also hold a Gay Pride Parade and Festival.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), was founded in Moscow last August and now has branches in the United States.. The IGLHRC promotes gay and lesbian rights around the world. The organization sponsored the Soviet gay activist and founder of the Moscow Union of Lesbian & Gay Men (MULGM), Roman Kalinin, on a month-long visit to the U.S. in November 1990.

The IGLHRC will; hold an International Symposium on Gay and Lesbian issues in Moscow and Leningrad as part of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Week

activities. People from the U.S. and other countries are encouraged to march in Moscow and Leningrad's first gay pride demonstrations and to participate in the International Symposium. Special travel programs are being offered for Symposium presenters, delegates, and visitors. Sightseeing, concerts, museums, and social events with Russian lesbians and gays will be part of the program. For details, and to request an application as a presenter, delegate, or visitor, contact Julie Dorf, Commission co-chair, 2978 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Her phone/FAX number is (415)647-0453.

To contact the Russian group, MULGM, and the Russian co-chair of IGLHRC, write to Roman Kalinin, Do Vostrebomania, 1211467 Moscow, USSR. His phone number is 7095-227-3070 and FAX number is 7095-200-2216. His mail from other countries is often intercepted by the KGB, so communications by FAX are recommended.

One of the first projects for both organizations is the repeal of Soviet Penal Code Article 121 which imposes up to a five year prison sentence on men convicted of homosexual acts. You can help repeal Article 121 immediately by writing to President Mikhail Gorbachev, Presidential Palace, Moscow, USSR. You can also urge him to try to stop the KGB harassment of the Moscow group, MULGM, and their publication "TEMA," which

was burglarized on Sept. 21 by the KGB. The KGB took all the files, documents and mailing lists of MULGM. Also, the KGB is stealing most of the mail for TEMA and the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men that comes from other countries.

Taiwan Lesbian Group Growing

Wo men zhi jian, which means "between us," the nine month old lesbian group in Taiwan, now has contacts across the island and throughout the Taipei metropolitan area. Over 35 women are involved and they are developing a campaign to introduce the group throughout the bars and other meeting places.

The group intends to extend beyond the underground bars and to address the many needs of lesbians in Taiwan. They also plan to improve media coverage about lesbians in Taiwan and plan to write and translate materials specifically for the lesbian community. The feminist magazine "Awakening" has done an article on the group.

Additionally, they have discussions over tea, camping trips, and nights out singing, drinking, and dancing after meetings. They'd love to hear from lesbian individuals and groups worldwide. Their new address is Wo men zhi jian, PO Box 10464, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

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International Lesbian-Feminist Conference in Germany

A Congress on Lesbian-Feminist Identity will be held in Cologne, Germany from June 14th to 17th. The objectives are to create a lobby to facilitate collective identity building, to develop self-power, to make visible patriarchal structures within ourselves and surrounding us in order to be able to conquer them, to break away from the oppression of our sensuality, to accept our own lust and herewith conquer our addiction to corporality, and to have fun.

Lesbian speakers, authors, and artists are invited to take part in the Congress. For more information, contact Vorbereitungsgruppe LESBENKONGRESS, c/o Schultz, Bismarkstrasse 17, Postfach 190109, D-5000 Koln 1, Germany.

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Calcutta Gay Life

There is a sizable gay community in Calcutta, India. Gay men can easily make contacts at the Shaheed Maidan, close to Chowringhee. Every Sunday after 4 p.m. a large crowd of men gathers there. At that time the Maidan has a large number of hawkers, peddlers, magicians, and other types of entertainers. Each will be making a great deal of noise to attract the men to their wares but many in the crowd are actually cruising and waiting for a casual brush from another's hand or arm, after which talk will start if both are interested.

Difficulties arise at this point as few women or men have their own place in overcrowded Calcutta. Often parks or public buildings must be used for any sexual activity and there is a considerable risk from police, thieves and bashers.

Polish Lesbians And Gays Thriving

The presence of gays and lesbians in public life in Poland is growing all the time. There are now five different lesbian and gay magazines, three of them available in regular newsstands. A new publication in English, "Warsaw Gay News!", came out in September, 1990, with its four pages packed with news of the movement in Poland.

Gay and Lesbian groups are active in several cities of Poland, such as Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk, and Torun. There are also several dating agencies for gays and lesbians which advertise in the regular press.

Pink Service, publisher of the "Warsaw Gay News," is a new organization that distributes Polish gay and lesbian magazines, as well as Western gay magazines, distributes condoms, organizes Gay Pride Day and weekly discos for lesbians and gays in the Cafe Fiolko in Warsaw.

They also provide a full tourist service (hotel bookings, private accommodations, guides, translators, show tickets, etc.) for lesbian and gay visitors from other countries. They plan to organize gay holidays in the most beautiful parts of Poland next summer.

For more information, write to Pink Service; ul. Piekna 1 b (III p.); P1-00539 Warsaw; Poland, or call 21-32-27 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Subscriptions to their "Warsaw Gay News" are \$10.00 USA for 6 airmail issues.

Guadalajara International Conference Update

During a recent phone conversation with Pedro Preciado, Director of GOHL, the lesbian and gay liberation group in Guadalajara, Mexico, the VIVA! of Los



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Angeles editor reports that the federal, state and local governments have officially "blessed" the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference to be held June 14-22, 1991, in Guadalajara.

"The Guadalajara organizing committee has been assertive in its demand of the right to legally assemble, and the green light has been given," Preciado explained. Previously the state and especially the city government said it would not allow the conference to take place. The organizing committee is comprised of GOHL and the Lesbian Group Patlatonalli.

The conference wants to feature art performances, readings, workshops and exhibits. A highlight of the conference is the participants exchange of Gay and Lesbian mementos, such as T-shirts, buttons, posters, or literature.

A sizable contingent is expected from the Eastern European, African, Latin American national and the Soviet Union, as well as from Western Europe and the

USA and Canada. This will be the first ILGA World Conference held outside of Europe, Canada or the USA. For more information, contact Jorge Romero Mendoza; GOHL; Apartado Postal 1-1693; 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco; Mexico, Tel: 011-52-36-37-26-90

Asian Gays Meet In Bangkok

The Third International Asian Lesbian and Gay Conference was held in Bangkok, in Thailand from August 24-26, hosted by the Fraternity for AIDS Cessation in Thailand (FACT).

The conference drew delegates from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Guam, Canada, England, and the USA, who shared insights and experiences about conditions in each country. Delegates from Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Australia, who were unable to attend, sent papers on the situation of gays and lesbians in their countries which were presented to the conference.

Conference delegates pledged to continue to help fight the spread of AIDS; to keep up the efforts to organize new gay and lesbian groups throughout the region; to strengthen communications, with "Asian Wind", the English publication of the Japanese International lesbian and Gay Association (JILGA), serving as their official international publication; and to increase the outreach to the Asian Lesbian Communities in all area countries.

A decision on the next conference site, scheduled for August 1992, will be made in February 1991. For more information, or a copy of "Asian Wind" (\$4.00 U.S.), write to Teishiro Minami, JILGA, 201 Hohyu Bldg, 2-11-9 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your interest in veterans C.A.R.E. this past year.

Veterans C.A.R.E. has in the past five years made great progress towards its goal. Our goal is in our name, "Veterans Council for American Rights and Equality". If our goal is political, it is the only political goal we have that of homosexuals being allowed to serve in the Armed Forces.

When we started five years ago we had no Congressmen who would speak out for us. We now have at least 50. The list is growing. It will take your continued support to maintain this a growing voice for equality.

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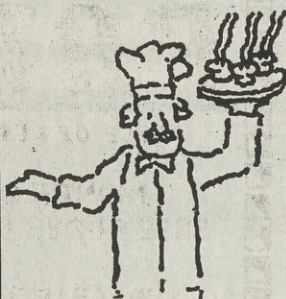
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Eulogy For A Loved Friend

By Edwin I. Sorrels

I ventured into life, exploring its varied avenues,

In search of life's values.

I knew there were scores of these values, just waiting to be found.

I trod all the avenues and found goodness on each. Every good thing I observed please me.

But, I felt a driving force urging me to search longer.

So, I walked down still another turn in the road.

I saw a rose, fresh from the bud; its full blossom.

Reaching toward the sun, and its fragrance exuding an atmosphere of love and kindness that pervaded the surrounds, inviting responses of the same quality.

I saw the rose grow more beautiful with the passing of each minute, giving its nectar of love to its environment.

I saw the sun begin to set. Petals began to drop from the rose, settling softly on the ground below.

The earth was made happy to receive the colorful, fragrant savor.

Next dawn, the rose was gone, leaving a grateful earth behind—an earth that was glad for having the rose live in it.

That rose is our loved one,

Travis Glenn Donham.

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Resolution Solution

By Sister Dana Van Iquity
of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
(aka Dennis McMillan)

"Fast away the old year passes: Fa la la la la, la la la la." And "fah" to all those "la la" resolutions you've no doubt made and already broken by now.

Every New Year it's the same old story—you write out those really great resolutions with total determination to keep them, but then within a week or so they are mere memories of your best intentions utterly gone to pot. It's not that you are a weak, self-indulgent, spineless jellyfish who can't keep your promises: it's just that you pick such boring resolves with no real challenge at all.

And so below I offer you some new, improved, creative resolutions that any gay person would be proud to adopt and keep.

Sexual Resolutions

For the men: I, _____, resolve to stop pretentiously displaying all those boxes of condoms with the obvious wording "*maximum, giant sized*" all over my bedroom when in actuality the contents are "designed for the smaller man." And in the same vein(vain?) for women: I, _____, resolve to stop buying big, busy, over-sized brassieres and casually draping them over the shower rod to impress potential girlfriends using the bathroom.

I, _____, resolve to stop using that fake, sexy, deep voice over the 976 and 1-900 phone lines; to quit using a phony, tough guy, butch name; and to cease adding so many inches when asked about my vital statistics. Men, you couldn't possibly get that big a thing zipped up inside your pants; and women, breasts simply do *not* grow that large!

I, _____, resolve to level with my casual tricks during those embarrassing post-coital moments when I usually blurt out impetuous promises of "getting together again real soon" when I have no such intentions at all.

And conversely, I, _____, resolve to resist the temptation to fantasize about picking out china patterns together when we've only been out on *one* date.

I, _____, resolve to do my part in the Gulf Crisis by severely limiting the number of times I frantically circle the block in my car, using up gasoline while cruising for dates after bar curfew.

I, _____, resolve to organize my endless stack of business cards in alphabetical order and begin
Patlar, January 1991, Page Eighteen

actually returning some of those calls I said I would("Hello, you probably don't remember me, but we met a few months ago in the dressing rooms of the underwear department at The Emporium and exchanged briefs and phone numbers...").

I, _____, resolve to admit that the only reason I got a dog was to walk it in the local cruisy park and meet potential bedmates. I probably should have gotten some breed other than a toy poodle, however; if I really wanted to retain my butch image.

I, _____, resolve to at least make an attempt to read a few of the well-written articles in this periodical *before* racing to the hot-and-horny personals in the back. Well, at least I'll read the *headlines* of the articles first.

I, _____, resolve to finally visit my optometrist and get the proper prescription for glasses so I will cease having mutual window sex with what is in reality a potted plant in my neighbor's window way across my apartment complex.

I, _____, resolve to improve my cultural exposure by occasionally avoiding the "adults only" section of the video rental store and checking out a classic movie. Hint—the title probably would *not* contain the words "horny," "hung," or "huge."

Lifestyle Resolutions

I, _____, resolve to take a fashion risk. Butch women will throw caution to the wind and *not* wear the plaid flannel shirt at least one night a week. Leathermen will try wearing an item of clothing that did not once come from a cow. Drag queens will make every attempt to go sequinless to the next cocktail party.

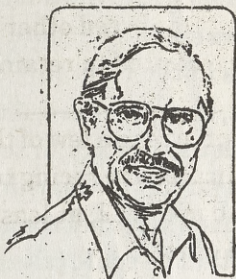
I, _____, resolve to stop de-gaying my home whenever relatives come to visit. This means that the men will not temporarily cover their sexy Tom Cruise poster in the bedroom with a poster of scantily-clad Janet Jackson, and the women will not cover their Janet with Tom. Likewise, gay men will keep *Playgirl* on the coffee table and lesbians will leave *Playboy* out—resisting the temptation to run next door and exchange magazines to appear properly hetero until company leaves.

I, _____, resolve to conduct myself more discreetly at charity bingo games. In other words, when the caller announces "O-69" I will not snicker; and I will not hiss like a snake when I hear the number "O-sissssixty-six;" and I will definitely not pirouette like a silly ballerina at the calling out of "I-22" (tutu!!).

So there are just a few, handy dandy, nonbreakable resolutions that you probably have never made before and therefore have not yet broken. Personally, I have only one resolution this year! "I, Sister Dana, resolve to stop making resolutions!!"

Happy Ninety-one everyone!

RALPH
and
there
is more...



As we move through the holiday season with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the new year, might we now take a few moments to count our blessings?

On the national and international scene we can give thanks for the ending of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany and the profound and unbelievable things taking place throughout the Soviet Union. Yes, there are disruptions and disarray, but the direction of movement seems clearly to be toward more freedom and democracy. certainly, as I write this, there are

grave uncertainties about the Middle East and our involvement there. And, on the domestic front, there are things for which we can be thankful, mixed with many—perhaps many more—which are disheartening. One perhaps needs to look beneath the surface, beyond the obvious, for reasons for joy and celebration at home. There are increasingly people and agencies interested and concerned and caring for those with AIDS. Progress, though slow, does despite the efforts of Jesse Helms and others the courts have upheld the right to display the art work of Robert Mapplethorpe. And, slowly but surely, with occasional steps backward, the rights and authenticity of gay people are being acknowledged. There are yet miles to go, of course, but certainly if one views our status in this culture over the perspective of the last 50 years, we have come far more than that "first step in the journey of 1000 miles."

And yet...and yet...to find what we need to forgive and "let go" and where we truly need to celebrate this holiday season, we should look to our own lives and the events and happenings that have been central for us in this year. What, we should ask yourselves, have we done? What was accomplished? What is still "in process?" In what new ways have we learned, or grown, or expanded our horizons? How positively and affirmatively have we recognized the set backs and losses as



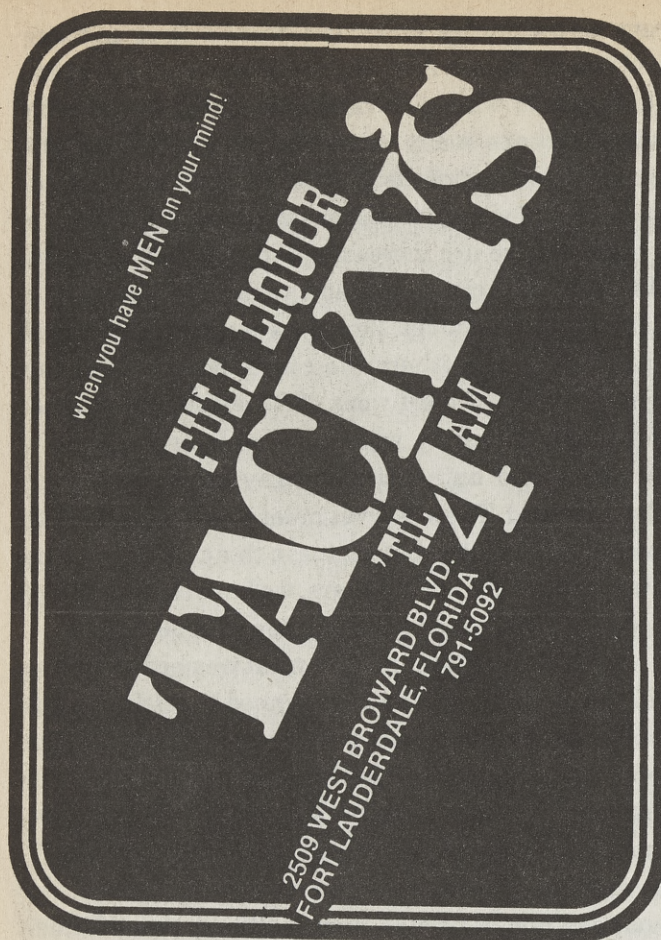
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simply more "lessons" from which we can gain new insights, develop new ways and new sensitivities, and move ahead with life with renewed vigor? *The Course in Miracles* makes it quite clear that what we are offered in life—which the universe sends us—is *always* love and support. And, any time we fail to recognize it as that, we have just confronted a "lesson," and from that we can learn, grow more flexible and effective and be empowered to be more effectively handle what life offers us in the future.

It is, then, our personal responsibility to take what life sends us, or offers, or sets before us and make of that an opportunity for learning and growth. I have mentioned elsewhere that someone once observed of Werner Erhard that he could take any disaster and turn it into a triumph. The old truism that speaks to the same approach to life is "If life sends you lemons, make lemonade!"

How *did* you do this year? How are you doing right *now*? What are the ways and means that you are "creating" right now, at this moment, that will draw you onward into the future with "flying colors?"

Oh yes, I know there is still "that" which holds you back or limits or restricts your possibilities. And you still feel inadequate or lacking in courage/money/skills to move on with what you truly want to do with your life. I hear you! And yet it all comes back, always, to you. You are the source. You are the creator. You are the *only* one who can truly get your life in gear and start it moving! And, as the old Zen saying puts it "the journey of one thousand miles begins with just one step."

Don't wait until "someday" to determine just what that "first step" should be. Take a look and identify it now. And then *take that step!*

Only you can do that. Only you can ascertain what the "step" is and only you can put your foot out and begin to move!

Yes, this past year has had its joys and its sorrows! Let the new year be the best and most productive year of your life. You, and only you, can begin that now!

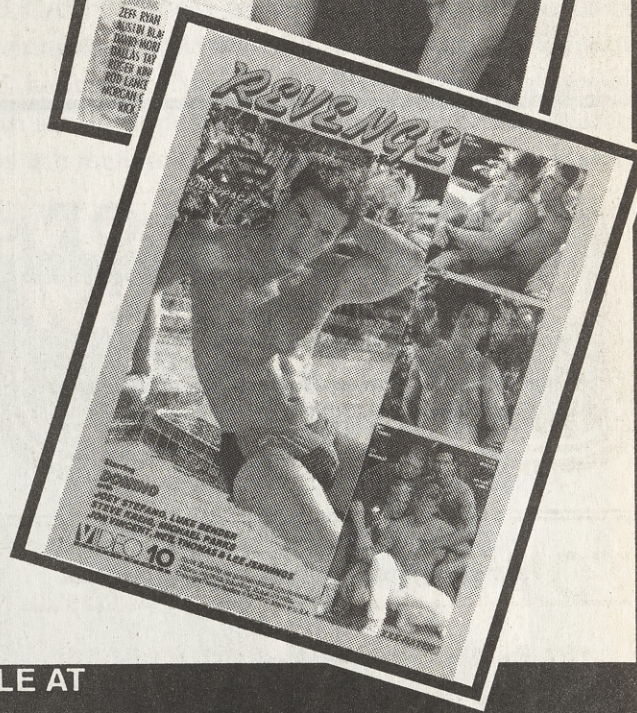
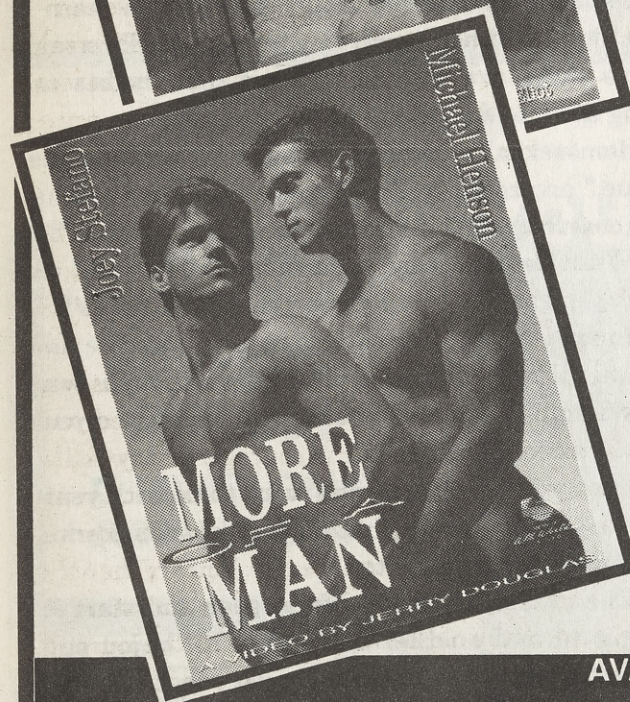
You have my love and support on your journey! Godspeed!

Ralph N. Walker welcomes your questions or comments.

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Gay Sheep Long to Ram It

Eight percent of the male sheep at the United States Department of Agriculture's Sheep Experimental Station in Dubois, Idaho are gay, officials confirmed in late November.

"These animals are homosexual. They are responding physically to how they are," explained Anne Perkins, a doctoral student at the station who is completing her dissertation on reproductive behavior in rams. Station officials deferred to Perkins when asked for details on the matter.

"It's very interesting model and we can learn a great deal about homosexuality from it," Perkins said. "These sheep are just doing what their bodies are telling them to do."

Homosexuality among animals is "nothing real unique," according to Perkins, who said gay sex has been observed in 63 distinct mammalian species. "It's not considered aberrant in farm animals at all," she said.

The gay sheep, like some gay men, practice anal intercourse, according to Perkins, although some achieve orgasm simply by rubbing their penis around another male sheep's tail.

There is, however, a serious social problem currently in gay sheep culture in that most gay sheep, Perkins said, only want to be on top.

"The difficulty for homosexual sheep is that it's difficult to find another male who will stand still," Perkins explained. "If there is a ram that is hurt or caught in a fence, they can mount him, but otherwise there are so few receivers that it becomes difficult for homosexuals to express themselves."

Only two of the gay sheep in Perkin's study population don't mind being on the bottom. "They tolerate it," she said.

Lesbian sheep, meanwhile, are apparently wrestling with a major "invisibility" problem in the gay sheep world, a difficulty that has plagued human lesbians too.

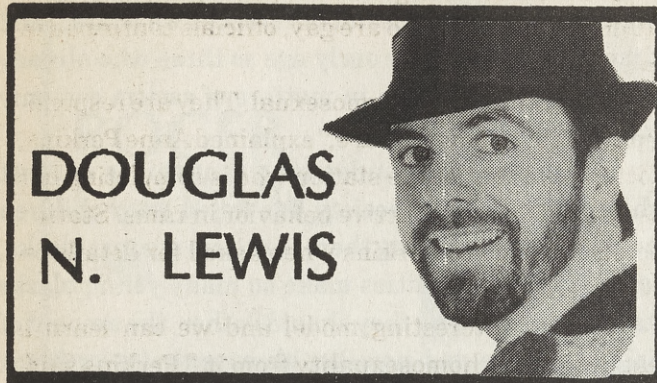
"It's very difficult to look at the possibility of lesbian sheep," Perkins explained, "because if you are a female sheep, what you do to solicit sex is stand still. You don't mount. So, it's very rare that a female sheep would mount another female sheep."

Researchers don't have many theories yet about why some sheep are gay, but Perkins says she is convinced that the animals are genuinely homosexual.

"We're not embarrassed or ashamed of this," she added. "But we do hope it doesn't get twisted and

distorted in a way that could do harm to the United States Department of Agriculture."

Perkins will receive her doctorate from the University of California at Davis later this year.



**DOUGLAS
N. LEWIS**

Our Racist Children

A say goodbye to our first year of the nineties and begin 1991, there is one word that seems to dog our every step. It comes at us from every angle and brings with it a veritable fleas market of emotions: fear, anger, resentment, bitterness, blame, cowardice, etc. The word is *racism*. Why has this become such an issue and where will it go?

I think that white society needs to realize that they have failed their children. They have created little time bombs that are going off at younger and younger ages. White society has failed in the one area that is most important for their and every other American's future: **EDUCATION**. Look at what white society has been teaching their children. One quick glance at television and the amount of prejudice and ignorance being spewed forth is almost deafening. Women are for sex objects, men are men and do stupid things to prove it, blacks

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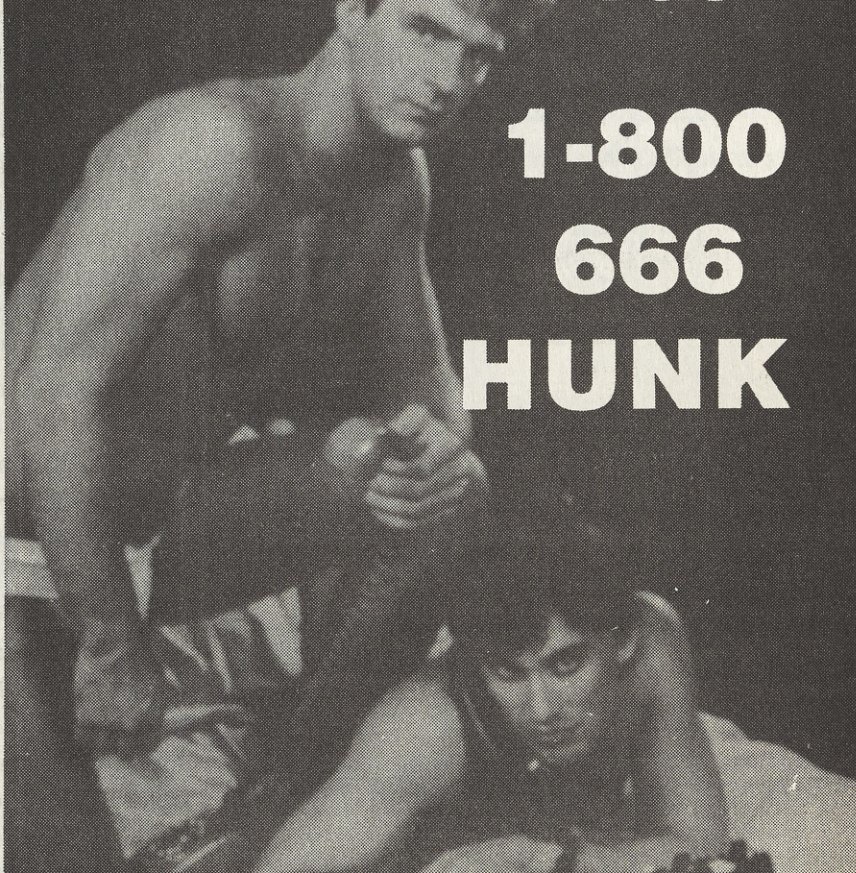
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and other minorities are hardly around and when they are, they're usually with other blacks and minorities, white people are almost *always* in charge of everything, homosexuals don't exist at all and violence is perfectly all right as long as you're the good guy.

What is being taught in American schools is little better. Is it any wonder that white youth are becoming violent and super—prejudice at earlier and earlier ages? Being that it is straight white males who are in charge of most of America, guess where all these very damaging concepts are coming from?

The straight white males of the Reagan years further divided the situation by separating all of us into more and more distinct economic classes. Their own ends and bank accounts were more important than were the thousands upon thousands of people who lost educations, school lunch programs, housing, medical attention and basic human care. White society has


failed itself and thereby has failed the country. Better education must be devised to make clear our similarities to one another, respect must be taught for that which is somehow different and an appreciation must be passed on of the wonderful differences we share...and it must begin at a very early age so those who already are beyond redemption in matters of racism can only make so much trouble.

It's important to understand that this is not just white failure—black society has failed their children too. There is no denying there is racism against blacks, harsh economic realities make so many young blacks starting out ask why they should bother, the amount of single mothers and poor health care that poor black children are receiving and the hopelessness with which the poor black family must face each and everyday prove this. But many, many blacks rise above these terrible obstacles and the way they do it is by leadership that teaches them to take responsibility for their futures. I hear so much about being the product of slavery and ancestors coming over to America on slave ships, but I can honestly say that I have never met a slave or seen a slave ship and hope to never have the opportunity.

The fact is, this is not about slavery anymore. The racist undercurrents of being treated less than human remain in some backward bastions, but white society will accept the emergence of blacks into primarily white held jobs if blacks prove capable. Nobody wants to *give* anything away, especially those who already have. It is up to each of us to *earn* our place in the world. Black society, or parts of it, seems to want white society to pick up all the pieces of their shattered history and make them all successful entrepreneurs.

Black society has failed it's children because, in many cases, it has taught its youth that all their troubles are due to whitey. But black society has failed to instill in their youth the requisite sense of responsibility and courage that will give them the chance they need to be successful, in their own terms. It is up to each culture, the children are raised feeling hopeless and desperate. Violence is being taught in some black communities as a way of threatening white society to spend more and more money, as if that is a cure for anything, and the outlook for that particular point of view is wholly destructive. Blame must stop and responsibility must take over.

It is through education that things will change and only through education that racism can be addressed. Pointing fingers and militancy always end up back on the doorstep of those propagating such action. Both black and white society must begin to realize that this




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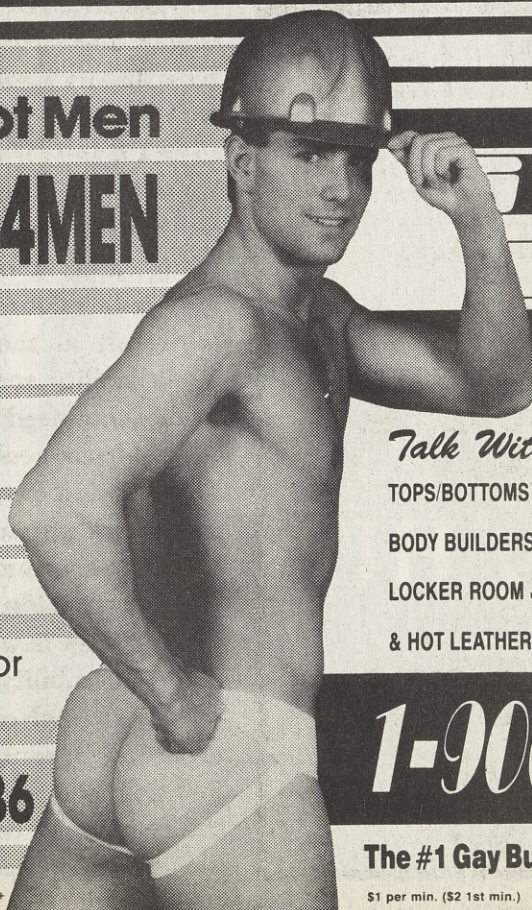
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ERNIE BROWN

Views From
River City



First of all I would like to wish all of my readers a happy new year. We made it through another year; at least I think we made it. We will know soon enough when the Mastercard and Visa dust settles.

1990 was an extraordinary year—fund raising, community unity, parties, Gay Games, etc. Yes, we had our ups and downs, but we weathered the storm. Our community is to be commended. Your generosity last

year was outstanding.

For instance, in December the entire month was fund raising and you responded beautifully. Larry Ross and LaKish's third annual toys for tots campaign brought in over \$1526 worth of toys. Ernie Brown and Bobette's eighth annual Christmas party for Metropolitan Community Church(MCC) brought in over 800 pounds of food for the MCC Christmas basket. That was outstanding! Tom Lane's Christmas party brought in \$681 dollars for the Fairy Godfather's Fund. The Sunshine show at The Western raised over \$526, also, for the Fairy Godfather's Fund. There are still funds coming in from the Town House Christmas party.

A case in point—the first annual Christmas show at the UCD Medical Center was outstanding, the attendance was great, and this was in the middle of the afternoon. The staff, patients, and everyone who attended enjoyed it. The Western show in one word was outstanding.

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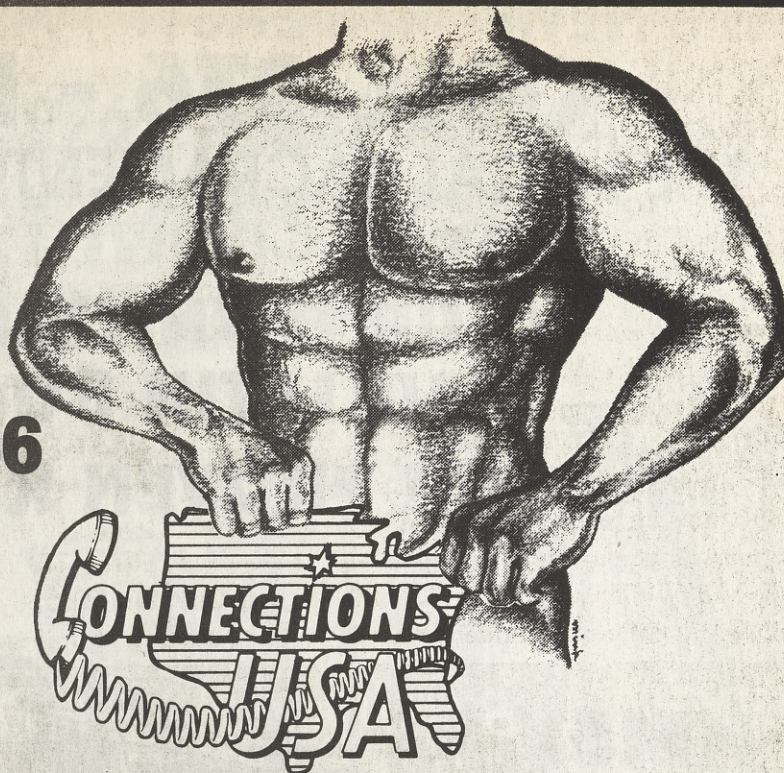
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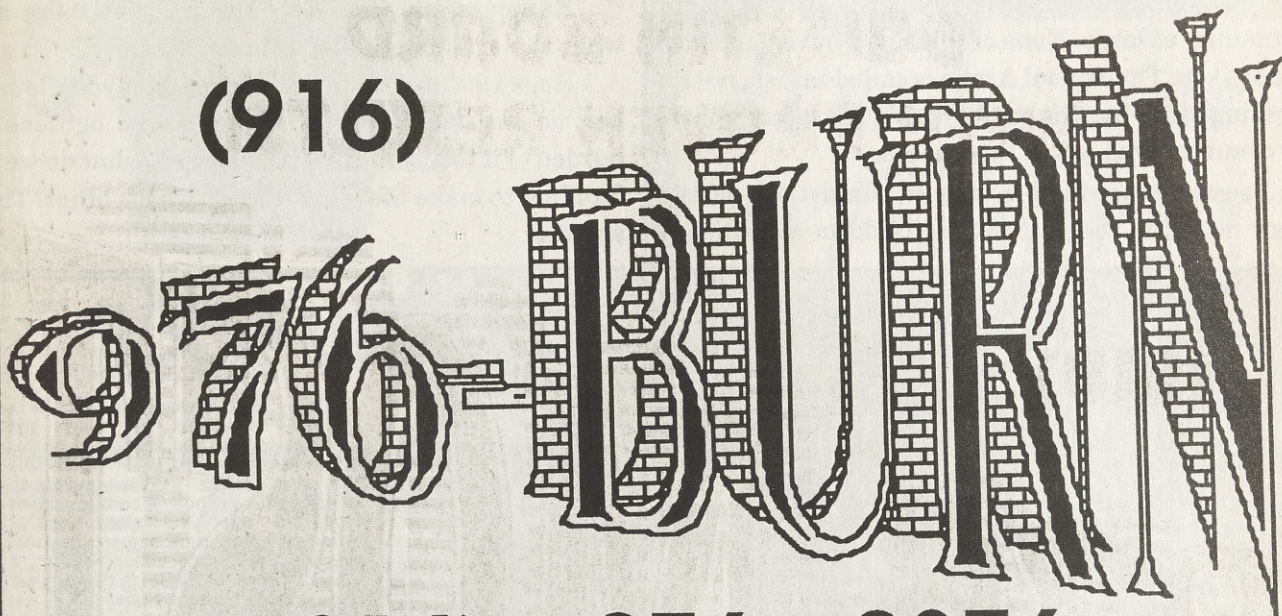
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The Town House did it again. Their Christmas party and show in one word was stupendous (and maybe one more word—professional).

Faces did it again with their Disney Christmas party. This was a lavish affair, tuxedos and gowns. The food also was a lavish affair. As a matter of fact, the food at all of the parties mentioned above was exceptional good. No one left hungry.

My hat is off to the Godfathers for making sure that every PWA (person with AIDS) received a gift and a miniature Christmas tree. My hat is still off to our community at large. None of this could have happened without you. Thank you! A man is called selfish, not for pursuing his own goods but for neglecting his neighbors our community is not in this category.

Because of the fund raising and Christmas parties I am not able to give you a rundown on what is

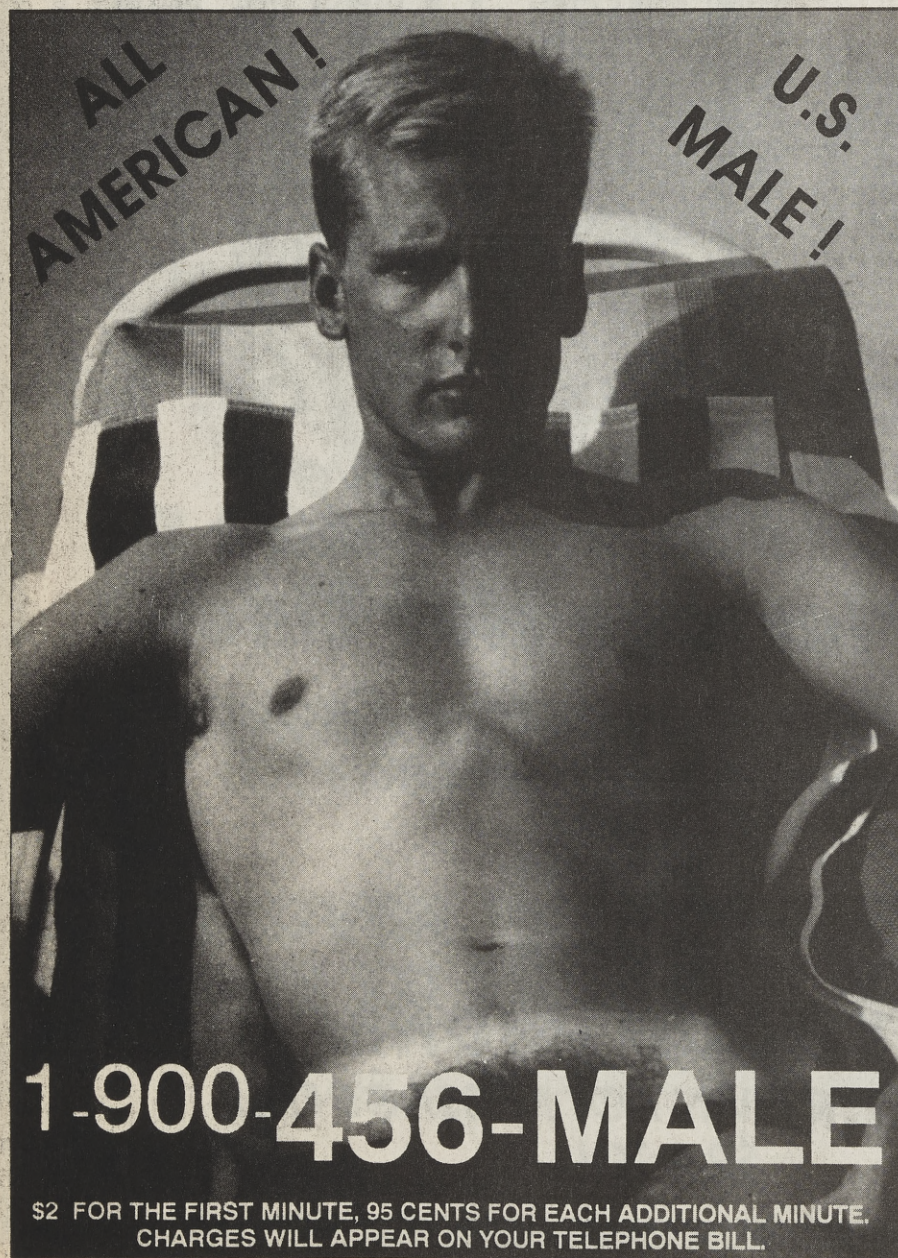
happening this month for your pleasure in the bars, so I suggest that you stop by all of them to see what they are offering this month.

Be sure to stop by one of our newest clubs in town—"Our Place." It's a beautiful bar featuring the three C's: cocktails, cold beer, and class. Our Place is open daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. It's located at 2560 Boxwood Street. Check it out.

Joseph's Town and Country just informed me that they are still serving \$3 Sunday brunch. Such a deal!

Happy big 60 Bobette. "The ole grey mare ain't what she used to be." Let's shoot for 65!

Hope 1991 is good to you and good for you. Remember, no one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else. Otherwise, what do we live for if not to make life less difficult to each other. Think about it.



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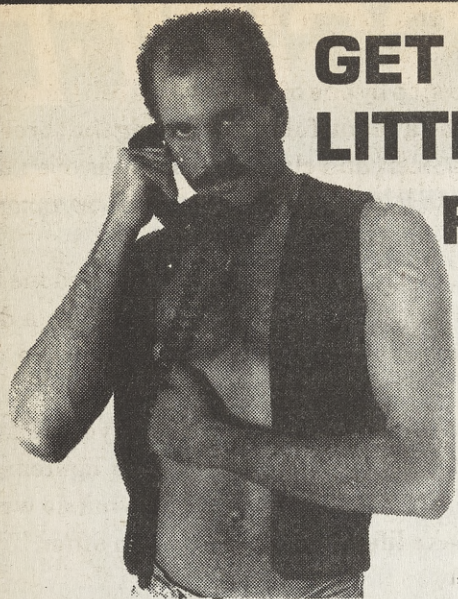


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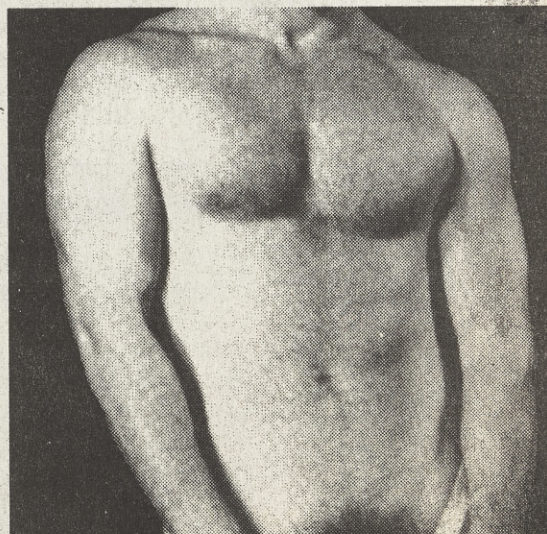
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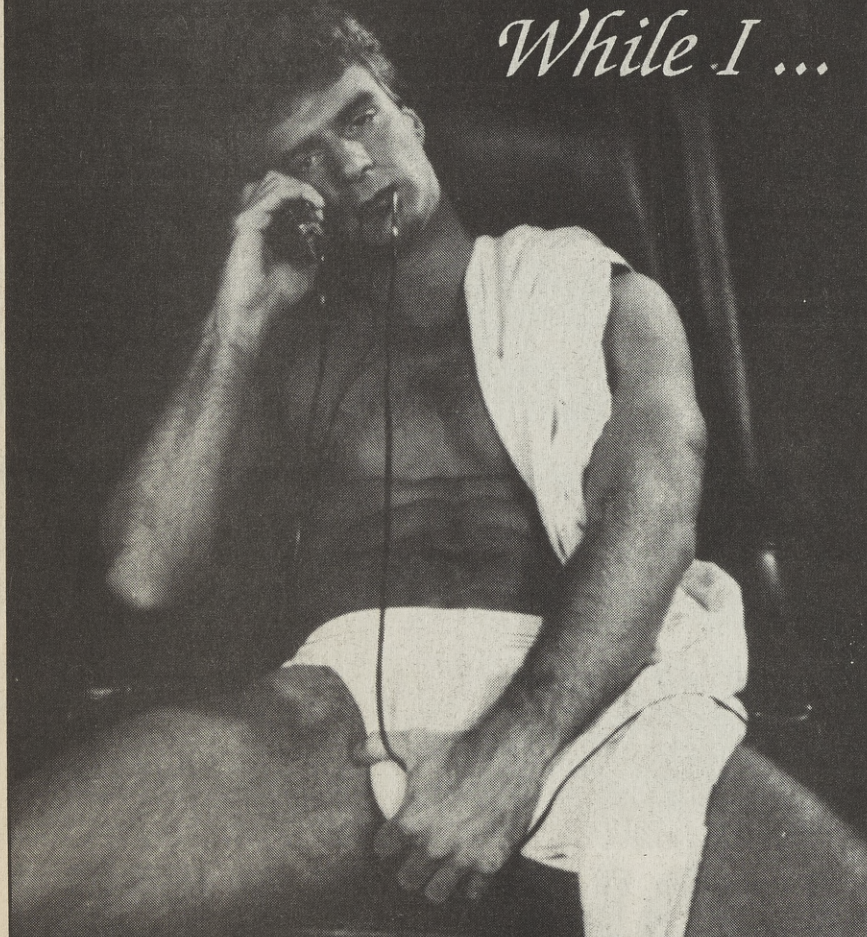
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DISCREET GWM, seeks someone similar yet distinctly different for stable working relationship. I'm 40ish, 5'10" 165#, attractive, masculine, honest and sincere with both feet firmly on ground. Have a healthy sense of humor and zest for life. I enjoy the outdoors, festivals, music, good food, don't go to bars often, would rather watch season change than TV. Looking for an individual who is upbeat, intelligent, and aware. Write to Patlar Ad 12-02, Patlar, PO Box

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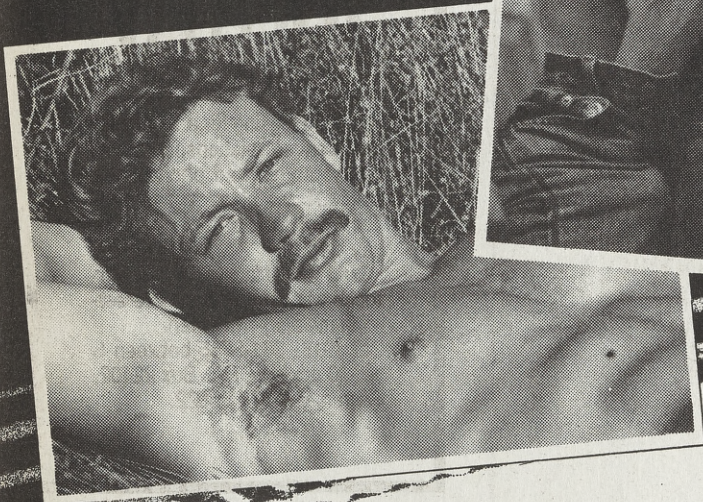
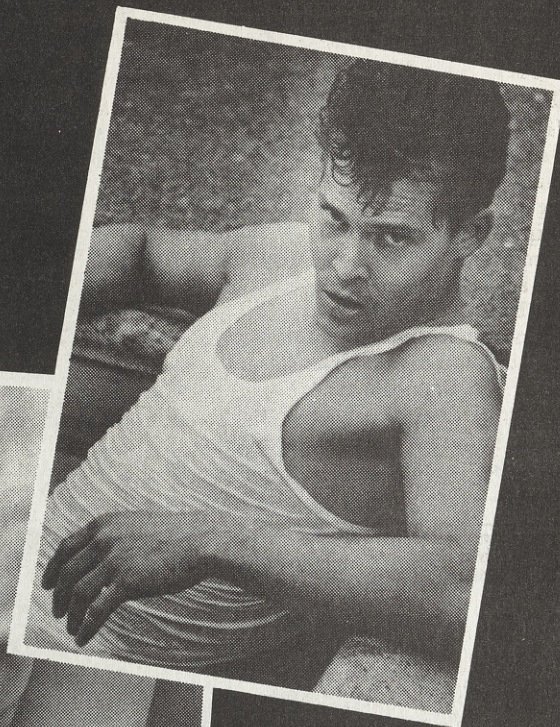
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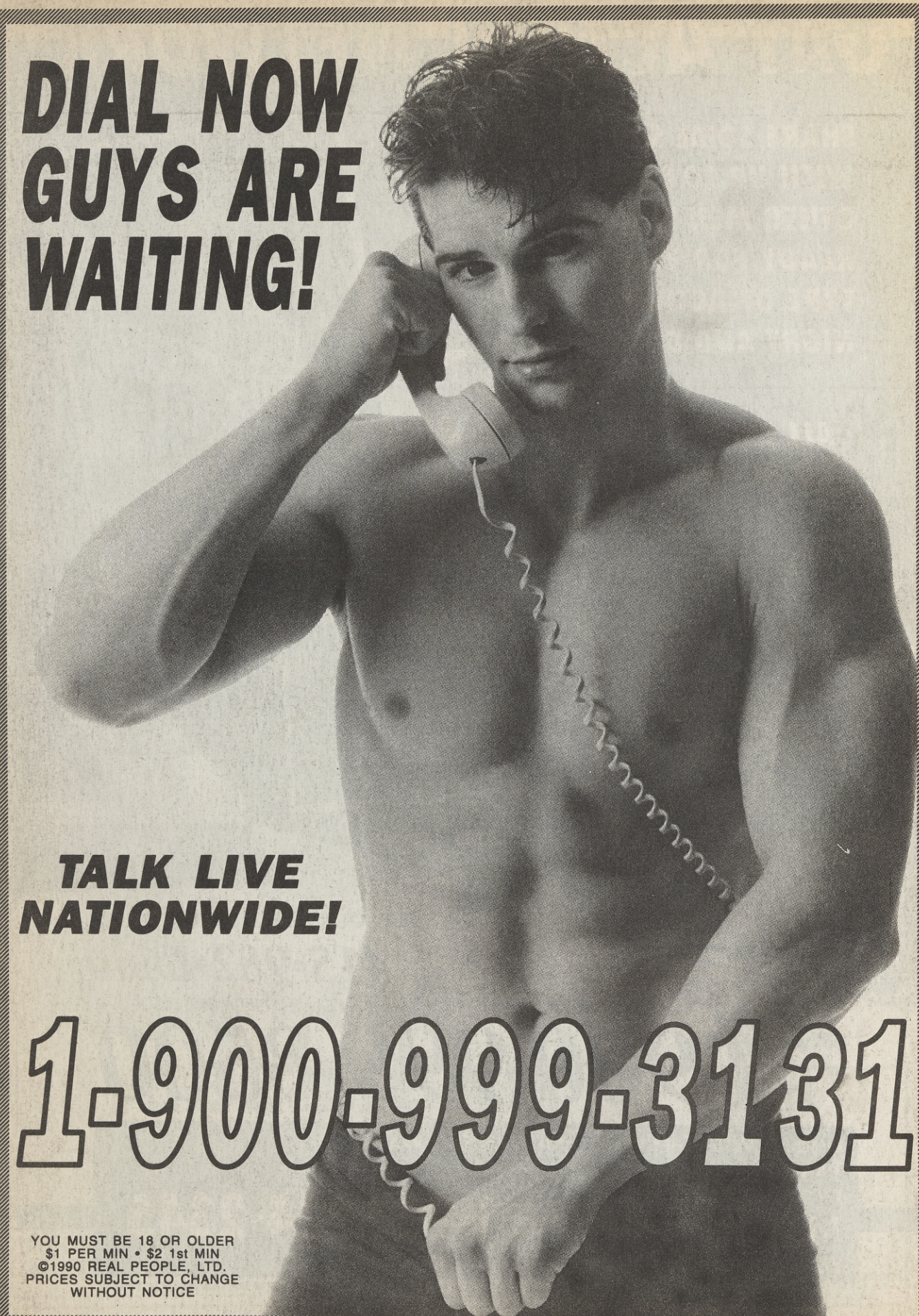
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